

JACK CUTJOE OR CUTJOE BANQUANTUE

Record of Jack Cudjo's service in the American Revolution; compiled from data in the history of Morris County published in 1882 and from Spatner's "Encyclopedia of the American Revolution."

Enlisted Feb. 1, 1777 in Captain Peter Dickerson's company "in the Service of the United States" Continental Troops, first company, third battalion. This company became in April 1777 part of Maxwell's Brigade.

Their first engagement was in the Battle of the Brandywine where they served as part of a division headed by General William Alexander (Lord Stirling) of N.J.

On October 4, 1777 they fought in the Battle of Germantown. They spent the winter of 1777 in camp at Valley Forge (There are maps in books showing the location of Maxwell's Brigade on the Valley Forge encampment).

In June 1778 they fought in the Battle of Monmouth. In July, 1778 they were on guard duty at Elizabethtown Point, (to protect New Jersey from British raids from Staten Island). In August 1779 they were on guard duty at Paulus Hook. Also in 1779 they accompanied General Sullivan's Expedition Against the Iroquois. In June, 1780 they fought against the British in their raid on Springfield, New Jersey. General Maxwell wrote an account of this engagement in a letter which he sent to William Livingston of New Jersey.

General Maxwell resigned from the army in 1780. When the resignation was accepted by Congress in June, 1780, Maxwell was replaced by Colonel Elias Dayton who served till the end of the War.

In January, 1781 Peter Dickerson's company was involved in the Mutiny of the Jersey Line. (Peter Dickerson had died in 1780.) The mutiny began at Pompton where the men were in winter quarters, continued on a march to Chatham and in a return march to Pompton. Three New Jersey regiments were involved in this mutiny which arose over lack of pay. As a result of the mutiny three men were selected from each regiment to be punished. A man in the same company with Jack Cudjo (or Cutjoe), Private John Tuttle, was one of the three.

Under Col. Dayton, later in 1781, they marched south and landed in Virginia, September, 1781. They were employed in "all the labor" at the Battle of Yorktown and were present at the British Surrender October 19, 1781.

The end of hostilities between the British and the Americans was announced in the Camp of the Brigade, April 9, 1783.

Miriam V. Studley

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Note on procedures used in research on "Cutjoe Banguantue, alias Jack Cutjoe" ~~the~~ Newark Black slave who was given his freedom and an acre of land on High Street ~~for~~ serving as a substitute in the American Revolution for his master Benjamin Coe, ^{a patriot} too old to serve.

The basic document on Jack Cutjoe is his will which can be read in one of the large volumes of wills in the surrogate's vault at the Essex County Hall of Records in Newark. In the same building the vault of the Register of Deeds contains in its series of bound volumes records of mortgages on the acre of land on High Street which he willed to his two younger sons, also the deeds of this property to other owners which form a complete chain of title up to the present day owner, a Greek church. The church building has stood on the site for a number of deeds. These deeds completely disprove the statement of one Newark historian that the property was at High and Nesbit Streets. The site is at High and William Streets on the west side of High

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Jack Cudjoe died in 1827 but no record of his death has yet been found in Newark newspapers or in ~~the~~ Shepard Kollerke Newspaper then published in Elizabeth. This does not mean that we may not find it at some future time.

An indication of Cudjoe's residence for a number of years back to the 1790's is found in deeds of persons owning properties adjoining his. Deeds of the Baldwins, the Johnsons, the Scrivas, etc. refer in their bounds to "Cutjoe Banguantue's garden". We have not yet taken time to search Essex County deeds from the ~~seventeenth~~ eighteenth century in the New Jersey Archives in Trenton. This search may prove fruitful in indicating when his home was built on the land.

A ^{partial} search of Newark account books and other manuscript materials at the New Jersey Historical Society was made in hopes ~~we~~ might find a mention of him perhaps as a market gardener. No results so far. A reading of John Pintard's "Garden Diary" at the New York Historical Society was also unproductive.

William S. Stryker, Adjutant General of New Jersey is the source on Cutjoe's service in the Revolution. In his "Register of Officers and Men" published in 1872 by the State, "Jack Cugo" is listed as serving in the Continental Army under Captain Peter Dickerson. Dickerson, a resident of Morristown enlisted ~~this~~ his company in the early spring of 1777.

The document establishing these facts is a bound volume of records on "musters" of troops for the war, available in microfilm in the Archives in Trenton. The term for which the men enlisted at this time has not yet been researched completely. Supporting notes for the Stryker "Register" are available at the State Library but give no further information than what we already have.

The reason for Cutjoe's enlistment by Dickerson in Morristown (which also appears in the Morris County history published by Munsell) has to be found in data on the Coe family. Benjamin Coe's will is of no help but the Coe genealogy in the New Jersey Historical Society. Cugo's ~~not~~ retells the

story of Jack Cutjoe, apparently a family tradition, relates the burning of Benjamin Coe's home in a British raid on Newark and brings out the relationship by intermarriage several times of members of the Coe and Dickerson families.

Benjamin Coe's flight to Hanover in Morris County is reported in a series of articles headed "Newark As It Was" believed to be written by Daniel Bruen of Newark, a neighbor of the Coe family. These appeared in the Newark Daily Advertiser in the 1860's, and a partial set of them is available in mounted clippings in the Newark. The same series relates that Benjamin Coe did not return till the end of the war when his son Benjamin in Newark built a home for him on the site of the original home at Court and Washington Streets ~~in Newark~~ since a daughter of Benjamin Coe, according to the genealogy, married a Tuttle and lived for years in Hanover, it may be assumed that Benjamin and his wife lived with Rev. Benjamin's membership of the Morristown Presbyterian Church is in a published volume of church records.

Further notes

Coe, Senior at High and William Streets, not at Herbert St. as one Newark account states. A very knowledgeable young title searcher at the Hall of Records helped me by running the "chain of title" of the "acre of land" through many different owners to recent times. A Greek church has stood on the site for a number of years. Jack Cudjo's descendants appear in the Newark city directories for many years, but their relationships are, of course, not known. A single clipping in the New Jersey information files at the Newark Library refers to a Newark organization of descendants of Black persons who served in the Revolution. I have been able to learn nothing more about this organization.

Incidentally ~~Cudjo~~ ^{Cudjo} the name is spelled variously Cudjo, Cudgo, Cugo, etc. but it is entirely distinct from the name Cuff and its variants. Material in books about African names and African customs make this clear. This variation of name spellings was very common until fairly recent times among both Black and white persons, especially those with Dutch, German, Swedish, even Irish names -

Miriam Shudler 21, 1976
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